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Editorial Notes

John Wesley is said to have remarked, "My Brother Charles, amidst difficulties of our early ministry, used to say, 'If the Lord would give me wings, I would fly.' I used to answer, 'If the Lord would bid me fly, I should trust him for the wings.'" God never puts anything on his people but that He gives with it all needed grace and equipment.

It is very important what one believes. Some say, without thinking, that if one's life is right it makes little difference what his creed is. This may seem very plausible, but a little thought will show its fallacy. How can one conform to the principles of righteousness if he does not first know what they are, and believe in them? Error and righteous life do not easily go together. And it is what a man is that determines his life. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." It is what he is, not what he does or what he has, that is the man. The verb "to be" is infinitely above the verbs "to do" and "to have." His beliefs, being a part of himself, are much better criteria of what he is than are his doing, be the latter never so good.

The tendencies of the denominations are toward the Presbyterian principles of Church government. In New England recently there came before a Baptist Association the case of a Baptist church that had received four persons to membership who had been baptized by sprinkling. A resolution that the church be advised to have them immersed was adopted by a vote of about eighty-four to seventy-two. The fact that seventy members of the Association were willing to tolerate this in a Baptist church, is significant.

Another article appeared in The Congregationalist during August last, appealing for more authority to be located in the General Council. The difference between a Congregational Council and a Presbyterian General Assembly has always been that the former had no authority, but only the privilege of counselling. The appeal for power to be lodged in the Council is therefore a good step toward efficiency of work.

The "Birmingham Ledger" of a recent date presents the experience of that city in the matter of prohibition. In years past, the managers have derived quite an income from the sale of the privilege of liquor-selling on the Fair grounds. In 1908 and 1909 there has been no liquor-selling, and of course no income therefrom. But the "Ledger" states that the Fair of 1908 was more prosperous than in 1907, and in 1909 the income was yet greater.

Commenting on the vast and varied amount of Calvin literature that has appeared in connection with the four-hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great reformer, "The Presbyterian" of Philadelphia remarks that "Although the modern cry is that Calvinism is dead, it is the outspoken Calvinistic preacher of New York whose large salary gets into the newspapers, and whose preaching is listened to with such interest by the New York people. Dr. Burrell is widely known for his earnest and telling proclamation of truth as revealed in the Scriptures, and as Calvin saw it. But he is not thereby discredited with his people nor with the Church at large."

The proposed basis of church union in South Africa between Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Congregationalist churches consists of these articles:

"1. This Church acknowledges and receives the Word of God delivered in the Old and New Testaments as its standard of faith and life.

"2. It accepts and holds as the central message of Scripture the evangel of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us; in whom God is revealed as the righteous and loving Father who is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance; through whom God has established his kingdom on earth; and by whom the Holy Spirit draws men to faith and penitence, inspires them to a life of service, and brings them into ever deeper harmony with God's Holy will.

"3. This Church exists for the proclamation of Christ's gospel and the extension of his Kingdom."